

**2006 – FINAL REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**(WCC)**

The 38th Annual Parade and the Eighth Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend, which included 16 events, were held over the weekend of Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21, 2006. For the eighth year the Annual Parade was a Spring event rather than, as in the past, a Fall event. But because of a rainout the final quarter of the activities: the Picnic in the Park, the Classic Rock Concert and the Piece de Resistance of the weekend, the Fireworks, were all postponed 3 times until finally being held on Monday, September 4, 2006.

The highlight of the Weekend, the Annual Parade, was dedicated "To Those Who Serve" with the 2006 theme being "Wellesley's 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday". Again this year, as was the case the last three years, this event was held between a serious rain forecast. But with a clearing for a few hours on Sunday afternoon, May 21, it stepped off with 115 units recorded as entries and 16 bands and musical groups providing music for the over 2,000 marchers; representing civic, military, militia, school, service, specialty and veterans groups. Additionally, 11 floats were entered, 9 of which received award recognition, with the Best School float going to the Upham School, which will hold the school trophy until the next Parade. A fly-over of the line of March by two World War II aircraft added to the success of the event.

The 19 events under the umbrella of Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend started on Friday evening when an 18th Century Military encampment was set up on the hillside in front of Town Hall by the Royal Irish Artillery. This lasted until after the Parade on Sunday.

Saturday morning began with the Wellesley Rotary Club's Annual All-Day Pancake Festival at Wellesley High School. A Bike Safety Day was held at the Tailby Parking Lot, hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Wellesley. Also throughout the morning the Wellesley Historical Society held their Annual May Fair at the Wellesley High School gym in conjunction with the Pancake Festival.

For the fourth year, the Wellesley Trails Committee coordinated a walk which was held this year at the Centennial Reservation to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reservation.

From mid morning through late afternoon, numerous Open houses were held throughout town: the Recreation and Health Departments at the Annie F. Warren Building on Washington Street, and for the seventh year, popular open houses were held at the Wellesley Police Station, hosted by the Wellesley Police Department and for the fifth year at the main Wellesley Fire Station #2 on Route 9, hosted by the Wellesley Fire Department. For the first time the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant held an open house which drew great interest from the public, who were shown all of the varying aspects of operation of the department.

Additionally a micro-chip clinic for household pets was hosted by Stray Pets in Need (SPIN) at the Cat's Hospital on Worcester Street. Saturday's events were completed at 4:00 PM with the Eighth Annual Ecumenical Memorial Mass for all veterans, hosted by the Wellesley Veterans' Council at St. Paul Church.

On Sunday, May 21 at 1:00 PM, the Wellesley Celebrations Committee took a chance and started the 38th Annual Parade--having been given a weather forecast that showed a few hours of no rain and clearing skies--and then coordinated the step-off of the Parade along

Washington Street, continuing from the Wellesley Community Center, at the junctions of Routes 9 and 16, and ending just after 3:00 P.M. over the Crest Road Bridge to the Tailby Parking Lot.

The evening activities could not be completed when the weather again became stormy and were postponed and rescheduled for two weeks until Sunday, June 4, which were also postponed until Sunday, September 3, then because of rain were postponed until the next day Monday, September 4.

On that day, the “Final Quarter of the Weekend” finally began at Hunnewell Field at 4P.M. with the Picnic in the Park highlighted by a Barbeque Supper hosted by the Interfaith Community for Action in Wellesley (ICAW) with help from the Wellesley Kiwanis Club; rides for kids until dusk, including among others the "Moon Bounce", “Merry-Go-Round” and “Pirate Ship”; face painting and balloon twisters added to the festivities that were be topped off with free ice cream for all, donated by the Hood’s Ice Cream Company.

A Classic Rock Concert featuring the Wellesley based band “The Impaired Visionaries” played throughout the evening until dusk.

A highlight of the entertainment was the appearance of singer Ayla Brown, a finalist on the television show “American Idol”.

Then at dusk the Piece de Resistance of the evening, the final celebration of Wellesley’s 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday extended Weekend, was the annual spectacular Fireworks display at Hunnewell Field that went off under clear skies.

Honorees of the 2006 Parade were:

<u>Parade Grand Marshal</u>	Elizabeth M. “Beth” Hinchliffe, Wellesley Town Historian and Activist
<u>Distinguished Service Award</u>	Wellesley Townsman, 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
<u>Community Service Award</u>	Wellesley Hills Woman’s Club, 116 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
<u>Community Service Award</u>	Wellesley Hills Junior Woman’s Club, 62 <sup>nd</sup> Birthday
<u>Community Appreciation Award</u>	Daniel C. Lanzillo, Roche Brothers Supermarkets Wellesley Manager
<u>Dedicated Service Award</u>	Gerald Murphy, retired 39 year teacher in Wellesley Schools, former School Committee Member
<u>Meritorious Service Award</u>	Drew P. Meekins, World Junior Championship Pairs gold Medalist
<u>Parade Chief of Staff</u>	George Adzigian, longtime Wellesley veteran activist
<u>Special Recognition Award</u>	Dana Hall School, 125 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
<u>Special Recognition Award</u>	Newton-Wellesley Hospital, 125 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
<u>Veteran's Honor Award</u>	Robert J. Hinchliffe, longtime activist in Town and Veteran’s affairs

Donations were received from citizens, local merchants, civic groups and service clubs and from many along the parade route which amounted to **\$31,759.00** from over 275 donors. A town appropriation of \$9,700.00 plus the donations were all used toward the \$42,427.93 cost of conducting the 8th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend and the 2006 Annual Parade, most of which was for fees of the bands and specialty units and the Fireworks. Because of the three postponements and rescheduling of the Fireworks and its associated activities, expenses were higher than in past years.

Special thanks go to all of the members of the Wellesley Celebrations Committee who coordinated all of the activities of this year's extended Wonderful Weekend: Mark Antonelli, Jim Bishop, Cathy and Hyacinth Brauner, Steve Castellini, Salvatore "Tory" DeFazio, Lindsay Ellms, Jackie Gauthier, Greg Leach, Lyn Mononen, Sarah Murphy, Irene Palmigiano, Debbie Reynolds, John Saunders, John and Dwin Schuler, Harold Sheldrick, Teresa Touey and Joellen Toussaint.

Many others helped, particularly from among Wellesley's wonderful town employees, including the Police and Fire Departments, the Engineering, Highway, Municipal Light Plant and the Parks and Recreation Departments, who unselfishly gave much of their personal time and energy in order to make this year's extended Weekend's events a success. Additionally, The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society once again offered invaluable help in coordinating the individual units from the start to finish of the Parade, through their communications network. Special thanks to Veteran's Service Officer Richard Dillon for his valuable assistance toward the weekend's success.

An additional thank you goes to all the donors, who each year come to the assistance of the Celebrations Committee; particularly the G. Drew Conway Family and Roche Brothers/Sudbury Farms Supermarkets for their donations, that made the fireworks display possible. All of their help is most sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

Royall H. Switzler, Chairman  
Wellesley Celebrations Committee